

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. A computer system having application programs stored on removeable storage comprising:
 - a. a computer system having a first data type table that stores application and file type associations;
 - b. at least one removable memory module that can be inserted into the computer system such that the storage locations on the module become assessable to the computer system,
 - c. an application program stored on the removable memory module;
 - d. a second data type table stored on the removable memory module;
 - e. a system computer software routine to combine the first and second data type table to form a virtual extension table that is used to determine which application is to be used for a given file type.
2. The computer system of claim 1 wherein the application and file type associations are determined by a file name extension associated with a specific file type.
3. The computer system of claim 1 wherein the computer software routine determines the priority of associating an application and file type in the virtual table by giving first priority to any application installed after insertion of the removable memory module.
4. The computer system of claim 3 wherein the computer software routine determines the priority of associating an application and file type in the virtual table by giving second priority to any application installed on recently connected removable memory modules with the more recently installed module given higher priority over subsequently installed memory modules.

5. A portable handheld computer having application programs stored on removeable memory comprising:
 - a. a computer system having a first data extension table that stores application and file extension associations;
 - b. at least one removable memory module that can be inserted into the computer system such that the storage locations on the module become assessable to the computer system,
 - c. an application program stored on the removable memory module;
 - d. a second data extension table stored on the removable memory module;
 - e. a system computer software routine to combine the first and second data extension table to form a virtual extension table that is used to determine which application is to be used for a given file type.
6. The computer system of claim 1 wherein the application and file type associations are determined by a file name extension associated with a specific file type.
7. The computer system of claim 1 wherein the computer software routine determines the priority of associating an application and file type in the virtual table by giving first priority to any application installed after insertion of the removable memory module.
8. The computer system of claim 3 wherein the computer software routine determines the priority of associating an application and file type in the virtual table by giving second priority to any application installed on recently connected removable memory modules with the more recently installed module given higher priority over subsequently installed memory modules.

9. A method of storing applications on removeable storage in a computer system comprising the following steps:
- a. storing on the computer system a first data extension table that stores application and data file extension associations;
 - b. inserting at least one removable storage module into the computer system such that the storage locations become assessable by the computer system, with an application program stored on the removable storage module;
 - c. storing a second data type table on the removable storage module;
 - d. determining which application program to execute with a data file according to a virtual extension table made from the combination of the first and second data extension tables.
10. The method of claim 9 wherein the computer software routine determines the priority of associating an application and file type in the virtual table by giving first priority to any application installed after insertion of the removable storage module.
11. The method of claim 10 wherein computer software routine determines the priority of associating an application and file type in the virtual table by giving second priority to any application installed on recently connected removable storage modules with the more recently installed module given higher priority over subsequently installed storage modules.